

ISSUE OPTIONS AND ACTIONS

ISSUE: What should be the role and position of the senior U.S. intelligence officer?

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE POSITIONS:

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE: No indication yet, other than an interest on the part of some staff members which supports the concept of a stronger DCI.

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE: No indication.

OPTIONS

NOTE: This is a key element in the concept of the future functioning of a U.S. foreign intelligence community, and all other issues will be affected markedly by the Executive/Congressional decisions as to where the senior U.S. intelligence officer is to be located in the Executive Branch hierarchy and what specific authorities he is to possess. The following are only the more obvious possible options and there are variations on these.

1. A senior intelligence officer is established in the White House, under whatever title, but separate from the CIA. Options re his duties are numerous:

a. He might be given responsibility for the production of national intelligence estimates.

b. He might be given responsibility for production of all national intelligence.

c. He might be given responsibility for the budgeting for the entire Intelligence Community.

d. He might be charged to serve as inspector general for the entire Community.

e. In any event, he would serve as the principal intelligence advisor to the President.

2. The Director of Central Intelligence, by whatever title, would serve as principal intelligence advisor to the President, head the Intelligence Community, and continue to direct the Central Intelligence Agency. Organizationally, this would be much the same as the present situation, but it can be expected the DCI responsibilities would be enlarged.

The same variations in responsibility as are listed for option one would apply to this option.

3. The concept of an Intelligence Community is diluted by limiting the DCI function to that of the head of CIA. Intelligence advice to the President and to the NSC would be provided through the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense as well as from the DCI. The requirement for the NFIP recommendations from the DCI would be rescinded and budget matters would be handled on a strictly departmental/agency basis.

PROPOSED ACTION

It can be expected the DCI will be requested to present his views as to how the Intelligence Community should be managed and directed. He should have a position paper on hand to support such presentation.

ACTION RESPONSIBILITY: D/DCI/IC